

Case 3279***Curculio picipes* Marsham, 1802 (currently *Procas picipes*; Insecta, Coleoptera): proposed conservation of the specific name**

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Abstract. The purpose of this application, under Article 23.9.5 of the Code, is to conserve the name *Curculio picipes* Marsham, 1802 (currently *Procas picipes*) for a widely distributed Palaearctic weevil (family ERIRHINIDAE) that appears in numerous faunal lists and catalogues. Marsham's name is a junior primary homonym of *Curculio picipes* Fabricius, 1777, but the two nominal species have not been considered congeneric since the early 1800s and are currently placed in different families. In addition, *Curculio picipes* Fabricius, 1777 is an unused name as it has been considered a junior synonym of *Otiorhynchus singularis* (Linnaeus, 1767) (family CURCULIONIDAE) since 1871.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Coleoptera; CURCULIONOIDEA; *Procas*; *Procas picipes*; weevils; Palaearctic.

1. Westwood, 1838 (p. 36) designated *Curculio picipes* Marsham, 1802 (p. 272) as the type species of the weevil genus *Procas* Stephens, 1831 (p. 90) (currently in the family ERIRHINIDAE; superfamily CURCULIONOIDEA). In 1879, Bedel (p. xviii) erroneously placed *C. picipes* in synonymy with *P. armillatus* (Fabricius, 1801). *C. picipes* (currently *Procas picipes*) is a widely distributed Palaearctic species that appears in numerous faunal lists and catalogues (e.g. Alonso-Zarazaga & Lyal, 1999).

2. *C. picipes* Marsham, 1802 is a junior primary homonym of *C. picipes* Fabricius, 1777 (p. 229). *C. picipes* Fabricius was formally synonymized with *Otiorhynchus singularis* (Linnaeus, 1767) by Gemminger & Harold (1871, p. 2268), although the names had already been associated with each other by Gyllenhal (1813, p. 318). *C. picipes* Fabricius has remained unused and in this synonymy ever since.

3. The nominal species *C. picipes* Marsham, 1802 and *C. picipes* Fabricius, 1777 have not been regarded as congeneric since revision of the genus *Curculio* in the early 1800s and they are now placed in distantly related weevil families (ERIRHINIDAE and CURCULIONIDAE respectively). Article 23.9.5 states that when it is discovered that a specific name in use is a junior primary homonym of another specific name already in use, but the names apply to taxa not considered congeneric after 1899, the junior homonym must not be replaced automatically. Instead, the case should be referred to the Commission. Replacement of the junior homonym in this case would cause nomenclatural confusion.

4. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary power to rule that the name *picipes* Marsham, 1802, as published in the binomen *Curculio picipes*, is not invalid by reason of being a junior primary homonym of *Curculio picipes* Fabricius, 1777;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the name *Procas* Stephens, 1831 (gender: masculine), type species by subsequent designation by Westwood (1838) *Curculio picipes* Marsham, 1802;
- (3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *picipes* Marsham, 1802, as published in the binomen *Curculio picipes* (type species of *Procas* Stephens, 1831) and ruled in (1) above to be not invalid by reason of being a junior primary homonym of *Curculio picipes* Fabricius, 1777.

References

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Comments on this case are invited for publication (subject to editing) in the *Bulletin*; they should be sent to the Executive Secretary, I.C.Z.N., c/o The Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD, U.K. (e-mail: iczn@nhm.ac.uk).